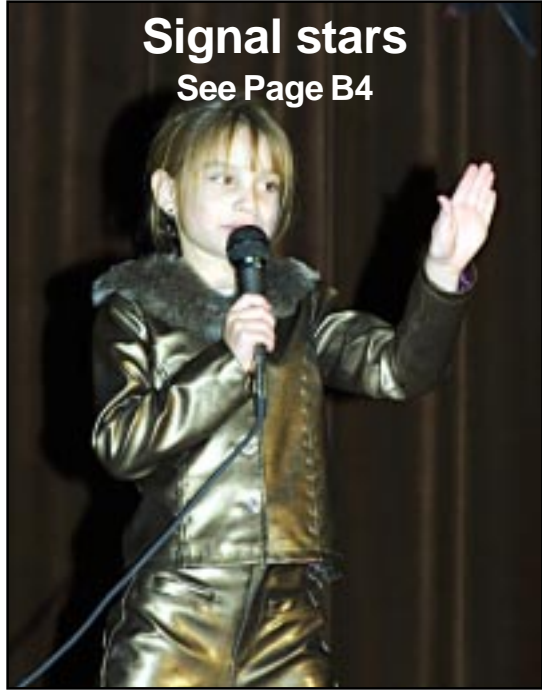


Signal stars See Page B4



The Fort Huachuca Scout



Vol. 47, NO. 46 Published in the interest of Fort Huachuca personnel and their families November 21, 2001

Scout reports

e-mail: thescout@hua.army.mil
website: huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

No parking on grass

All drivers are reminded that parking on the grass is not allowed on Fort Huachuca. The Military Police will begin enforcing this rule very soon and violators will be issued a Magistrate Court citation. It is recognized that current Force Protection measures do cause some inconvenience, however, there is sufficient parking space available near work areas.

Giving Tree volunteers needed

The Giving Tree is a chapel-based program that provides holiday gifts and clothes to needy military children. Volunteers are needed to sign out ornaments that list the child's toy and clothing request to Santa's helpers. Volunteers are also needed to man the Giving Tree that will be located at the Main Post Exchange now through Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Volunteers to portray Santa will also be needed on a daily basis from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 458-7664.

Commissary closed

The Fort Huachuca Commissary will be closed Thursday and Friday and will re-open on Saturday for regular hours. The Commissary Staff wishes everyone a safe and peaceful holiday.

Housing office closed

The Housing Office, Directorate of Installation Support will be closed in celebration of the Thanksgiving Holiday, Thursday and Friday. It will reopen Monday.

Pay office closed

The Defense Military Pay Office, DFAS, will be closed Thursday and Dec. 11.

Flea market open Thursday

The Sierra Vista Lions Club Flea Market will be open for its regular vendors, Fort Huachuca and the community for Thanksgiving weekend starting at 7:30 a.m., Thursday through 5 p.m., Sunday. For more information, call Lion Lee Hinzman at 378-1399.

Education Center closed

The Army Education Center and the Rascon Learning Center will be closed Thursday-Saturday for Thanksgiving Day weekend. It will reopen on Monday.

DRM closed Friday

The Manpower and Management Division, Directorate of Resource Management will be closed Friday. If any manpower, equipment or management issue occurs, contact the director, Mike Reid, for assistance.

CFC deadline extended

The 2001 Combined Federal Campaign is still going on. The deadline, originally set for Oct. 31, has been extended to the end of November. All unit coordinators and keyworkers should turn in their pledges and donations to Capt. Kimberly Retchless at 538-0812 or kimberly.reтчless@hqasc.army.mil. For more information, call Maj. Terry Hurley at 538-6048.

Central registration closed

The Child and Youth Services Central Registration Office will be closed all day on Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14. The office will be reviewing and updating all children's health assessments, immunizations, social security numbers and family care plans. For more information, call Marty Johnston at 533-0738.



Photo by Angela Moncur

Holiday bounty

Chaplain assistants from Fort Huachuca units joined together at the Main Post Chapel on Monday to package and prepare Thanksgiving baskets for fort families. Units from around post, like Company B, 305th Military Intelligence Battalion pictured above, collected their baskets for distribution. For the complete story, see Page 3.

FBI arrests 10 fort soldiers

By Stan Williamson
Scout Staff

Ten soldiers from Fort Huachuca were arrested on variety of charges related to drug offenses on Thursday. The FBI made these arrests following a six-month, joint investigation.

A detention hearing was held Tuesday at the federal courthouse in Tucson. The results of the hearing were not available by *The Fort Huachuca Scout* newspaper's Tuesday deadline.

It is known that the prosecutor argued for continued detention of all defendants because of the quantity of drugs involved, the proximity of the Mexican border, and their out-of-state connections.

Defense attorneys asked for the release with or without bond for seven or eight of the defendants. The federal judge will make the final decision concerning the disposition of each soldier.

Arrested were:

Spec. Nkechi D. Anderson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, aged 24 of Arcadia, Fla. Anderson has over five years in service, and assigned here for nearly two years.

Spec. Christopher M. Daniel, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, aged 20 of Battle Creek, Mich. Daniel has over two years in service with 17 months at Fort Huachuca.

Staff Sgt. Rodney W. Eden, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, aged 35 of Madisonville, Ky. Eden has over 14 years in service and has been here for nearly three and a half year.

Sgt. Terrance D. Glaze, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, aged 36 of Caddo Parish, La. Glaze has over 13 years in service and has been assigned here for nearly four years. He was selected as the company NCO of the month for August, 2001.

Spec. Jerrold H. Hayles, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 111th Military Intelligence Brigade, aged 19, of Chicago, Ill. Hayles has over two years in service of which 23 months have been served here.

Pfc. Marcus A. Oliver, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, aged 21 of Miami, Fla. Oliver has two years in the service and has been here for 17 months.

Spec. Curtis L. Smith, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, aged 22 of Murfreesboro, Tenn. Smith has five years in service and nearly two years at Fort Huachuca.

Pvt. Glenn B. Smith II, 18th Military Police Detachment, aged 20 of Lorain, Ohio. Smith has less than two years in service and has been here for 17 months.

Pfc. Christopher W. Ward, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, aged 23 of Gaston, S.C. Ward is nearing seven years time in service and has been here for nine months; and,

Pfc. Ronald L. Wylie, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, aged 19 of Rockhill, S.C. Wylie has 16 months in service with 10 months service here.

Post officials are cooperating fully and swiftly with investigating agencies and organizations.

E-Card will open up .mil websites for Army students

By Jim Caldwell
TRADOC News Service

FORT MONROE, Va. — Soldiers in professional development courses will soon be given a credit-card-size E-Card that helps them in their research for class projects.

The E-Card fits into a computer's CD-Rom drive. When it is inserted, it will automatically show the links to Army websites, including the Reimer Library at Fort Eustis, Va., Department of Defense and other services' websites and other distance learning resources. The soldier clicks on the name of the website, and the connection is made.

"The cards will be given to soldiers attending courses on levels above basic training and AIT (advanced individual training)," said Col. Christopher Olson, director of Training Development and Analysis Activity for Training and Doctrine Command's Deputy Chief of Staff for Training.

Olson oversees the building of The Army Distance Learning Program, for which the E-Card was developed.

When the distance learning system is completed in fiscal year 2003, there will be 700 classrooms equipped to receive or originate interactive video and computer-based training throughout the network.

Students attending NCO and Officer Education Systems, as well as those taking distant learning courses will be given an E-Card.

Soldiers enrolled in The Army University Online, or eArmyU, are issued computers with the information on the E-Card already loaded.

Soldiers should keep the cards they are given. When they take future courses they can use it again. If the system has added or deleted website links, the card will be automatically updated when it's inserted into a computer CD-Rom drive.

The E-Card is based on similar cards used in industry. On the plain side, the playing side, is a raised circle that fits into the CD recess in the computer's drive.

Once an E-Card fits into the recess, close the tray and the websites on the E-Card are displayed.



Photo by Wed Anderson

Col. Chris Olson, director of TRADOC's Training Development and Analysis Activity, compares the size of the E-Card presented to students in officer and NCO education systems courses to a credit card.



Photo by Paula German

In remembrance

Lois Anderson takes a moment to reflect at the unveiling of a plaque in memory of her late husband, Ralph “Tiny” Anderson. On Friday, the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation dedicated the Special Events Park to commemorate Anderson. The Special Events Park is located in front of La Hacienda on Kelsay Avenue. He passed away Nov. 12, 2000 after a year-long battle with cancer. At the time of his death, Anderson was the Chief of Recreation Services Division and project officer for all MWR special events at Fort Huachuca. He was directly responsible for successfully bringing large music concerts to the area. He had been recognized for 25 years of government service the week before his death.

Commander’s Hotline

Callers question several DPS policies, practices

(Editor’s note: The following calls were received over the Commander’s Hotline (533-BOSS). Each of the following calls addressed issues or concerns withing the Directorate of Public Safety. Maj. Michael Petty, provost marshal and DPS, responded to all of the questions.)

Call

My concern is regarding the lack of MP force at the gate. I’m noticing more and more MPs patrolling the officers’ living quarters to enforce the traffic restrictions in those areas, where I feel that it should be more necessary down in the NCO quarters around Hall Circle due to the number of children in the area. I’ve noticed a lot of speeding and reckless driving in that area instead of up in the officers’ area.

I feel the MPs could better serve Fort Huachuca by concentrating their responsibilities to the safety of the installation instead of the safety of some roads that are less traveled.

Response

We currently have MP’s at the gates and are enforcing traffic across all the installation, to include officer and enlisted areas. Based on your observations, we will look at Hall Circle for increased traffic enforcement.

Call

I’m retired from the U.S. Army, and I currently work on post. What I would like to know, sir, is with the recent cut-backs and things, budget-wise and monetary constraints that we’re told are going on throughout DoD, why, then, are we able to fund and buy brand-new Ford police cruiser-type vehicles for our military police personnel, when we can’t even get or spend \$0.39 for DoD installation vehicle decals for us so we can properly register and display them on our POVs? That’s my question. I was told that they did not have them because they ran out of money. I would like to remain anonymous.

Response

The money for the new police vehicles was already outlined in the DPS budget.

Decals come to all DOD installations at no cost. It is simply a matter of ordering and receiving the decals from St. Louis. Unfortunately, as a result of all installations going to access control at the same time, we depleted all stocks and St. Louis did not have the capability to make more (funds). We have 10,000 on order and are awaiting delivery.

Call

I’m calling to question the Gate Guard Duty Details USAG soldiers are having to perform. We’ve gone through the main gate numerous times, and it has always been the guys on detail checking our IDs, while the MPs are sitting or standing around in a group talking.

If the MPs have all that time available to stand around, why then are other soldiers having to pull the gate guard duty when there are more than adequate MPs available to do it? They’re all standing there. That was really my question and my complaint — why are others having to pull the detail when the MPs never check our IDs at the gate? It’s always been the guys on detail. Thank you.

Response

Military Police are responsible for enforcing the access standards and dealing with any law enforcement issues, as well as conducting ID checks at the gates. This requires them to back off the checks to look for law enforcement violations, which could be an indicator of a threat to the installation and ensure the augmentees are allowing access only to authorized personnel. I will look into the talking matter. They should be watching and listening.

*Maj. Michael C. Petty
Director of Public Safety/Provost Marshal*

Lifelong Learning

New classes taking place in Sierra Vista

Cochise College release

The technology division of Cochise College is offering new special interest classes at the Sierra Vista campus during the spring semester, which begins Jan. 14, 2002.

Air Conditioning Maintenance/Refrigeration I (GTC 122) will provide students with proficiency in inspecting, trouble-shooting, repairing and maintaining air conditioning and evaporative cooling systems. Seasonal maintenance, start-up and shut-down procedures also will be covered.

The three-credit class meets in Room 117 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Fridays and from 9-11:40 a.m. Saturdays for 16 weeks beginning Jan. 18.

It will be led by instructor Tim Saska, who handles heating and cooling on Fort Huachuca. Anyone interested in participating should contact Bill Saathoff at 515-5339.

A three-credit **Home Gardening** (AGR 215) class also is being offered for the first time on the Sierra Vista campus.

The course covers care and maintenance of trees, shrubs, hedges and flowers, as well as the cultivation of vegetable gardens. Home Gardening meets in Room 709 from 5-8 p.m. each Tuesday for 16 weeks beginning January 15.

Two other three-credit special interest courses are being offered through the technology division:

— **Know Your Automobile:** GTC 014 covers everything from buying, insuring and repairing a car to preventative maintenance. Students meet at the Buena High School auto shop from 6-8:20 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

— **Machine Tool Technology:** GTC 140 is a course in basic machine shop operations designed for students of any skill level. Drilling, milling, grinding and the lathe process are covered. The class meets in Room 112 from 5:10-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Space in all classes is limited. Registration is ongoing through Jan. 12. Call 515-0500 to register.

Soldiers’ Lawyer

What is my legal residence or domicile, and why does it matter?

Your domicile or legal residence is your permanent residence - the place to which you intend to return after you end your military service. Your legal residence or domicile does not change simply because you enter military service; federal law permits members of the Armed Forces to maintain a legal residency despite moving with the military.

A soldier can change his or her state of legal residence through two steps: first, be present in the new state; second, manifest an intent to make that state his or her domicile or permanent home for the foreseeable future. How do you demonstrate such intent? By taking actions such as voting there (even by absentee ballot), maintaining your driver’s license and car tags, and / or owning real estate. These factors can all be indicators of your true domicile. Try to be consistent with these indicators of residency.

But why does this consistency matter? Your state of legal residence can have serious legal and financial consequences. For example, your legal state of residence typically has the power to tax your income, dissolve your marriage or distribute your property upon your death. If your indicators of residency are very inconsistent, two states may try to tax your one income! While the law does not permit both states to do so, it may not be easy to straighten this out. As always, consult with the JAG Legal Assistance office if you have particular questions.

(Editor’s note: The Soldiers’ Lawyer is provided by your Judge Advocate General Legal Assistance Office. Visit us on the web at <http://huachuca-www.army.mil/usag/sja/legalassistance/> or contact us at 533-2009 for an appointment. Legal advice may not be given over the phone.)

Commentary

Thanksgiving holds new meaning for soldier

*By Sgt. Sharron L. Stewart
Scout Staff*

This Thanksgiving has taken on a new meaning to me; the things that the grace of God have provided to me so abundantly in the past, I now experience and marvel over with a new sense of gratitude and humility.

I’m so thankful for the sound of my daughter’s laughter and the sound of her tears because they provide me with opportunities to prepare her for the sweetness and bitterness of life.

I’m thankful for her innocence and her sincere belief that a kiss from me will make things better.

I’m thankful for the gift of life and the privilege of seeing each new day. “Great is thy faithfulness.”

As the Bible states we have all had to “Endure hardness as good soldiers,” since the horrific, surreal happenings of Sept. 11, but I’m thankful for belonging to a country that literally rises up out of the ashes more determined, more majestic and more noble after every crisis.

I’m thankful for freedom, which lately has taken on a new savor for me, because without freedom there is no will to live, to love or even to exist.

I’m thankful for the privilege of wearing this uniform and hearing my daughter exclaim “My mommy is a soldier!”

And last but not least I’m thankful for faith. Faith enables you to endure, to persevere and to hope for a better tomorrow. Faith carries you through because it allows you to cling, rely and trust to a pure Higher Power when all seems lost.

I’m not sure how I will spend this holiday, which admittedly in the past has been about self-gratification, but I do know that this Thanksgiving I will truly be thankful for all the blessings that the Creator has bestowed on me.



The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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Chaplain assistants help load boxes of turkeys and bags of holiday meal supplies in a humvee from the 86th Signal Company. The Installation Staff Chaplain’s office put together over 300 Thanksgiving baskets for fort soldiers

Chaplaincy gives back to community for holiday

By Angela Moncur
Scout Staff

Members of the Installation Staff Chaplain’s office, chaplain assistants and unit volunteers prepared and delivered approximately 300 holiday baskets to fort soldiers on Monday. The Thanksgiving baskets included a 16 to 20-pound turkey, a 5-pound bag of potatoes, two cans of corn, two cans of yams, brown-and-serve rolls, stuffing, gravy mix, cranberry sauce, corn bread mix and a boxed cheese cake. According to Chaplain (Maj.) Garry Dale, the baskets were made possible by donations and money received during a designated offering in October. “All of the chapels on post had an offering designated specifically for our Thanksgiving efforts,” Dale said. “The offering raised over \$4,000.” Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Buniack said there were significant contributions from Companies A, B and E of the 305th Military Intelligence Battalion, and the Joint Interoperability Test Command. The Installation Staff Chaplain’s office has been preparing a Thanksgiving gift in some form since 1990.



Spec. Cynthia Jolin, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, helps stock bags with all the holiday meal trimmings, including yams, cheese cake and stuffing.



Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States.

First Lady wishes Guard, Reserves a happy Thanksgiving

I am delighted to wish you a happy Thanksgiving. This year the holiday season holds special meaning for Americans, and we are particularly grateful for members of our National Guard and for members of our Armed Forces Reserves. As we continue to heal from the tragedies that began on September 11, your role becomes more important - and more appreciated - than ever. Our nation depends on the premiere, community-based force of the National Guard and Reserves. You are America at its best. For many of you, this will be a season of separation from friends and loved ones. The President and I appreciate your sacrifices and commend your willingness to serve and defend our country, from ensuring that our airports and ports of travel are safe, to protecting our nation’s borders. Your presence across our homeland and abroad is a source of pride and reassurance for all Americans. This holiday season, Americans are reflecting on what is most important to us: our faith, our family and friends, and our freedom, which you defend with honor and dignity. Thank you again, and may God bless you and your families as you continue your service to America.

Laura Bush
First Lady of the United States

SECDEF offers troops a holiday message from a grateful nation

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday, a day that commemorates the Pilgrims’ survival in the New World and celebrates the freedom for which we offer our thanks to God. But while every American knows why we celebrate Thanksgiving, few — I’m sure — realize that it took the Civil War to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. “In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity,” President Abraham Lincoln wrote, “order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict.” Thus, did he declare the last Thursday in November a national day of “thanksgiving and prayer.” Today, America is once again at war — a war every bit as dangerous and threatening to our national survival as that war that so tested America’s courage and resolve. And again, America’s citizens have met the challenge. Order had been maintained, laws have been obeyed, and love has prevailed over unspeakable evil and destruction. Indeed, Americans have shown the world just what stuff we’re made of — and for that I am very grateful. But as in all war, the responsibility for its successful conclusion falls to you, America’s defenders. You carry the torch passed to you by the hundreds of policemen and firefighters who raised our country’s flag over the wreckage and pulled our fellow citizens out of the rubble. And for that, all America is grateful. So, as you sit down to a Thanksgiving meal — in makeshift camps, aboard ships at sea, on bases far from your families and your homes — know that you are in the hearts and prayers of every American. As families all across the land gather together, they will give thanks to God not only for the blessings and benefits of freedom, but for every soldier, sailor, airman and Marine who is fighting to defend it for us and for every human heart that longs for liberty. On behalf of the entire Department of Defense and a grateful people, thank you, and may God bless you and return you safely home.



Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense

Chapel hosts Thanksgiving service

By Chap. (Maj.) Ike Houck
Chaplain Resources Manager

The Fort Huachuca Installation Ecumenical Christian Thanksgiving Service begins at 10 a.m., Thursday at the Main Post Chapel. The service lasts one hour. The Protestant Women of the Chapel displays their creative talents by decorating the sanctuary to reflect a Thanksgiving theme. Many of our commanders attending the service say that as soon as the service ends they will visit the Dining Facilities and help serve soldiers a delicious Thanksgiving meal. The service of Thanksgiving at the Chapel is a traditional event at Fort Huachuca. The Thanksgiving Service at Fort Huachuca dates back to the earliest days of the fort.

The 36th Army Band brass quintet, under the direction of Sgt. 1st Class Mark Haas, will accompany Jan Goode, the Main Post Chapel organist, and select chapel choirs for inspiring worship. The anthems, hymns and songs of praise promise to lift hearts and minds to God in thanks for this great nation and the bounty of the land. A full chapel is expected. All of the Unit Ministry Teams will be participating. In addition, soldiers from MI Village will attend with members of their command. Families from all over post will also gather on this day in the chapel and together we will offer prayers for the nation. Child watch is available during the service from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m. For more information, call the Installation Staff Chaplain’s Office at 533-4748.

Post dining facilities celebrate Thanksgiving

By Tanja M. Linton
Media Relations Officer

The Herbert O. Yardley Dining Facility will host its annual Thanksgiving dinner Thursday. Meal hours are 1:30-4 p.m. for permanent party soldiers, cadre, family members and guests. Retirees and their family members and guest are invited to dine from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The meal rates are based on the standard meal rate of \$5.30 per person. This rate applies to everyone except family members of specialists and below. Those family members will pay discounted meal rate of \$4.40. There are no reduced rates available for young children. The Herbert O. Yardley Dining Facility offers its guests a variety of holiday favorites, including:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| shrimp cocktail | deviled eggs |
| hors d’oeuvres | roast turkey |
| pit ham | stuffed Cornish hens |
| steamship round | mashed potatoes |
| candied yams | cornbread dressing |
| bread dressing | asparagus wrap |
| green beans | corn o’brien |
| glazed carrots | cranberry sauce |
| assorted desserts | assorted breads |
| assorted fruits | salad bar |
| mixed nuts/hard candy | |
- The Thunderbird Dining Facility will host its Thanksgiving Dinner from 3 to 7:30 p.m., today. The dinner is open to all active duty soldiers and family members, retirees and Department of Defense civilian employees who work on Fort Huachuca. Cost is 5.30. A special rate of \$4.40 will be charged to family members of specialists and below. For more information, call 533-2005 or 533-4420.

Military Reports

SGLI spousal ‘opt-out’ deadline extended to Dec. 31

The American Forces Press Service reports that troops who don’t want spousal coverage in the Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance program now have until Dec. 31 to cancel at no charge. This is a one-month extension on the initial Nov. 30 opt-out deadline widely reported in October. The automatic coverage began Nov. 1, and affected those members who carried more than \$100,000 of personal coverage. Troops who don’t want spousal SGLI coverage need to visit their military personnel office to fill out and submit an “8286A” form. The forms are also available on the VA website www.insurance.va.gov/sglivgli/sglifam.htm. Those who cancel in time will be reimbursed for any premiums inadvertently withheld from their pay. Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen and their spouses who would like to keep spousal insur-

ance may have an opportunity to get lower rates with Navy Mutual Aid Association. For more information, visit www.military.com/nmaa/NMAALeafdm/?ESRC=mr.nl

Low interest rates good for servicemembers

Last week, the Federal Reserve again lowered interest rates to bolster the economy. Servicemembers who are thinking about purchasing a home or are interested in refinancing their current mortgage at a lower interest rate can find information online at Military.com. In addition to providing free information on VA loans and conventional loans, Military.com has a short online form servicemembers can fill out to receive more information. The form can be accessed at www.military.com/Finance/Content/?ESRC=mr.nl&file=apply_for_loan.htm&area=Content

Native American Heritage Month ceremony celebrates cultural diversity



Louis-Virie Blanche played several ballads during the Native American Heritage Month celebration Nov. 14, at the LakeSide Activity Centre.

**By Sgt. Sharron L. Stewart
Scout Staff**

The Fort Huachuca Equal Opportunity Office celebrated Native American Heritage Month at the LakeSide Activity Centre, Nov. 14. Louis-Virie Blanche and Constant Creations, featuring the Redhouse Dancers, performed in front of an enthusiastic audience.

They performed inter-tribal songs and dances and original compositions as an organized prayer for unity, peace and healing. The event also featured displays of Native American artifacts and of the Native American impact on Fort Huachuca, the military and other venues of American society.

Col. William Phelps, commander of the 112th Military Intelligence Brigade, thanked the performers for sharing their heritage with the Fort Huachuca community.

The words of retired Command Sergeant Major Randolph Hollingsworth were given in the closing remarks: "Our nation is an example to all nations, and for our freedom is its greatest testament... the United States will remain the land of the free and the home of the brave because we have men and women who believe in our nation and know the importance of our Army."

Holiday ball tickets available now

**By Stan Williamson
Scout Staff**

The U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca Holiday Ball, is set for Dec. 7 at the LakeSide Activity Centre, starting at 7 p.m.

The event will require formal dress. Officers should wear their Mess/Dress Blues or Whites, and enlisted soldiers their Dress Blues or Class A's with white shirt and bow tie. Civilian men are asked to wear a tuxedo or dark business suit with bow tie, and ladies to wear an evening dress.

Tickets costing \$30 each are available from 1st Lt. Elliot Olmstead, coordinator for the Holiday Ball. He can be reached at 515-3414. Tickets are also available from unit battalion headquarters. Due to seating capacity at the La Hacienda Club, there are only 342 tickets available.

The 36th U.S. Army Band will provide a piano player to play appropriate music during cocktail hour, 6-7 p.m., and a musical quartet to play

holiday theme songs throughout the dinner, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

The menu selections for this year's ball are:

- Emperor's Halibut**
Halibut rolled in black sesame seed with ginger lime sauce, "Sunshine" rice and Northwest Blend vegetables
 - Prime Rib of Beef**
8 oz. slice of Prime Rib, au jus, creamy horseradish, whipped horseradish, potatoes and Northwest Blend vegetables
 - Chicken Cordon Blue**
Boneless breast of chicken with prosciutto ham and Swiss cheese, Parmesan cream sauce, "Sunshine" rice and Northwest Blend vegetables
- All dinners include a crisp garden salad with Chef Chewy's dressing, freshly baked rolls and butter, coffee, tea and water, and Chef Chewy's select dessert.

Kudos Korner

NCO of the Month

Sgt Anthony Gilbert is Fort Huachuca's Noncommissioned Officer of the Month for October. Gilbert is a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 111th Military Intelligence Brigade and the noncommissioned officer in charge of IEW Maintenance. He attended Basic Training at Fort Leonardwood, Mo. in September 1997. A native of Atlanta, Ga., Gilbert is a 1996 graduate of Washington High School. He plans on recruiting and receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix.

Soldier of the Month

Spc. Jeffery Denton is Fort Huachuca's Soldier of the Month for October. Denton is a member of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 111th Military Intelligence Brigade and performs computer repair at IEW Maintenance. He attended Basic Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. A native of San Diego, Calif, he graduated from Concord High School in 1990. Denton has his associate's degree in electronic technologies and plans on receiving his bachelor's degree in computer science.

Have we got news for you!
Read it online, click on huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

DoD deploys defensive measures against anthrax mail

**By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service**

WASHINGTON — As of Wednesday all incoming mail to the Pentagon is opened and inspected, X-rayed and checked for anthrax, a Pentagon administrative official said.

"Any kind of mail or package deliveries that come into the building are to be first physically opened and inspected, checked for anthrax and X-rayed," said Pentagon Administrator Tony Tatum. The Army, he noted, is responsible for Pentagon mail operations.

Officials stopped delivery of official mail to the Pentagon Oct. 20 after the discovery of anthrax bacteria at the U.S. Postal Service's Brentwood facility in Washington, D.C., Tatum noted. Brentwood had processed mail for Pentagon delivery.

"We're expecting the first truckload of mail tomorrow that they've been holding in the Washington area," Tatum said.

He remarked that all incoming Pentagon mail — including that delivered by Federal Express and United Parcel Service — will be checked at a special containment area adjacent to the Defense Post Office located near the five-sided building.

Normally, about 1.5 million pieces of mail arrive monthly at the Pentagon through the Defense Post Office, Tatum

Specially constructed "downdraft tables" that suck air downward from opened mail to filters have been installed at the Pentagon mail handling/screening facility. The filters are tested for anthrax for each batch of mail opened.

Tony Tatum

said. Contractors in protective clothing will now open and screen that mail, he added.

Tatum said specially constructed "downdraft tables" that suck air downward from opened mail to filters have been installed at the Pentagon mail handling/screening facility. The filters, he said, are tested for anthrax for each batch of mail opened. Tatum said the mail handlers wear protective clothing, facemasks and protective gloves.

All mail will be held for up to 72 hours, Tatum said, pending test results. Mail testing negative for anthrax will be forwarded for distribution to Pentagon recipients.

Mail reading positive for anthrax "would be held, the Defense Protective Service would be notified and take possession of the mail as possible evidence," Tatum said.

He estimated that the first batch of Pentagon mail under the new security protocol could start being distributed around Nov. 26, after negative results are received and after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Tatum said he has confidence in the new mail security procedures. "Is it 100-percent accurate? No, but it is as good as you can do in this situation," he emphasized.

Regarding that 72-hour waiting time for anthrax test results, Tatum remarked: "We're hoping to get that reduced when improved test techniques become available."



J. William Leonard, deputy assistant secretary of defense for security and information operations, uses a defense website to check out DoD-related commercial press articles. Leonard said the need to safeguard classified — and even unclassified — information over the World Wide Web is especially acute during the war against global terrorism.

Vigilance also needed in 'cyber domain,' says DoD official

**By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service**

WASHINGTON — The World War II-era adage "Loose Lips Sink Ships" underlined the peril of uttering privileged defense information in public — possibly within earshot of enemy spies.

The United States today is engaged in a war against global terrorism and the need to safeguard classified — and even unclassified — information is especially acute over the World Wide Web,

The more eyes and ears we have out there exercising vigilance — to include in the cyber area — the safer the environment for all of us.

J. William Leonard

TRICARE changes mean lower healthcare costs for reservists

**By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service**

WASHINGTON — DoD officials have enacted healthcare system changes to make life a little easier for reserve component members and their families following the Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom call-up to active duty.

The most significant change is a national demonstration project that waives all TRICARE deductibles for family members of Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom activated reservists and guardsmen for care received since Sept. 14.

TRICARE officials realized many of these families probably paid deductibles for their civilian health plans earlier in the year. They didn't feel it fair for them to shoulder another financial burden just because their sponsor was called up toward the end of the year, said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Robert Styron, regional operations officer for the TRICARE Management Activity.

Another change for reserve component members is that TRICARE will pay for up to 115 percent of what is usually allowed for care under existing guidelines. Styron said the change would help reservists who live far from active military facilities in areas that don't have TRICARE provider networks. Their families probably would end up paying more out-of-pocket if

TRICARE hadn't agreed to the higher fees.

The third change is that TRICARE officials have waived the need for Guard and Reserve family members to obtain nonavailability statements before receiving care from a civilian provider. Styron said DoD acknowledges many reserve families have existing relationships with civilian providers.

"If you've already got these established relationships with a provider, we're not going to get in the way. We will allow you to continue seeing providers you know," he said.

Active duty family members don't need a nonavailability statement if they're far from a military treatment facility. If they live near a military facility, however, they generally need the statement or they must pay for the care themselves.

DoD officials have explained that families of reserve component members called up for at least 30 days are eligible to use TRICARE benefits. Families of those activated for at least 179 days are also eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime, which offers the most cost-effective way for military families to receive medical care.

For more information on these new benefits and on healthcare for reservists and guardsmen, visit TRICARE for the reserve components at www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/default.htm.

the Defense Department's senior information security official noted Nov. 9.

"I think every American today is being asked to be more vigilant," said J. William Leonard, deputy assistant secretary of defense for security and information operations. "That vigilance needs to exist not only in the physical domain, but in the 'cyber domain' as well."

DoD has myriad systems in place to mitigate possible probing of information-rich conduits such as e-mail traffic, Leonard remarked in an interview with the American Forces Information

See Cyber, Page 6

Military Family Week

2002 Military Family Week essay, art contests open

By Andree Swanson
Special to the American Forces Press Service
SPRINGFIELD, Va. — The Armed Services YMCA wants military youngsters’ entries for its 2002 art contest and readers’ essay contest.
Art Contest 2002, in its seventh year, seeks artwork from children in kindergarten through sixth grade depicting their active-duty, Guard or Reserve military families.
Top prizes are \$500 U.S. Savings Bonds, and the winners’ artwork will be printed on posters for worldwide distribution next year in observance of Military Family Week. Children of Defense Department and Coast Guard civilians may enter in an honorary category. Entry deadline is Jan. 28, 2002.

Full contest guidelines are on the Armed Services YMCA website at www.asymca.org, or they can be obtained by sending an e-mail to essaycontest@asymca.org or calling 703-866-1260.

Armed Services YMCA

The poster for this year’s Military Family Week observance, Nov. 18-25, features the winning art of Heather Burke, daughter of Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert and Marietta Burke of Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. A color image of the poster is accessible on the Internet at www.asymca.org/art_posters_2001.htm.
Also featured on the poster are smaller panels by service-level winners, Maureen Argo, daughter of Navy Cmdr. Michael and Margaret Argo of Stuttgart, Germany; Krizzia Castro, daughter of Army Staff Sgt. Omar and Veronica Castro of Fort Riley, Kan.; Angelica Gates, daughter of Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Stephan and Gina Gates of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.; Dane Krull, son of Maj. Rich and Stephanie Krull of Indiana Air National Guard; and Keeya Singer, daughter of Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Douglas and Vicki Singer of Humboldt Bay, Calif.

Entry deadline for the 2002 Armed Services YMCA Essay Contest is March 18. The contest highlights the joys of reading and should be on any subject related to reading. In its sixth year, it’s open to first- through 12th-graders and offers Savings Bond prizes of up to \$1,000.

Children of active-duty, reserve and retired members of the uniformed services and of DoD, Coast Guard and American Mission civilian employees can enter.

Full contest guidelines are on the Armed Services YMCA website at www.asymca.org, or they can be obtained by sending an e-mail note to essaycontest@asymca.org or MilitaryFamilyWeek@asymca.org; or calling 703-866-1260.

(Editor’s note: Andree Swanson works for the Armed Services YMCA in Springfield, Va.)

President offers thanks to military families

I am proud to offer my sincere thanks to the brave wives, husbands, children, and other family members of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines during Military Family Week (Nov. 18-25).
Many military families serve our country by sacrificing personal comfort as their loved ones help protect our Nation. The men and women who serve in America’s military depend on their families for solace and strength as they defend our people and our interests around the world. Your active support of our service members plays a vital role in our national defense and in making our country’s Armed Services the finest in the world.
As we work to eradicate the evil of terrorism, military families must continue to meet their distinctive challenges with the American spirit of honor and courage. Your selfless dedication to your loved ones and to our country sets an example of patriotism of all Americans to follow. Laura joins me in sending our prayers, gratitude, and best wishes.

George W. Bush
President of the United States



Sgt. David Perrin and Spc. Emily Perrin, enjoy a quick chat during the day. The Perrins are one of two married couples that deployed to Egypt for the Bright Star exercise.

Military marriages endure all things

By Staff Sgt. Tim Volkert
11th Sig. Bde. PAO

MUBARAK MILITARY CITY, Egypt — The hot, sandy desert in Egypt is not a place many couples would pick to spend their wedding anniversary, especially people just starting their lives together.

But for two married couples in the 11th Signal Brigade deployed for Bright Star, that is exactly where the celebrations took place.

When the two-year mark rolled around for Sgt. David Perrin of the 69th Signal Company, 504th Signal Battalion and Spc. Emily Perrin from Company B, 40th Sig. Bn., they couldn’t celebrate with a quiet, romantic evening out on the town, but at least they were together.

The Perrin’s shared their free time during their special day by just being together after work and going shopping at the bazaar on the MMC to buy gifts for each other, Perrin said.

The same situation awaits 2nd Lt. Sean Gallagher from Company B, 40th Sig. Bn. and 2nd Lt. Rochelle Gallagher of the 69th Sig. Company, 504th Sig. Bn., when they celebrated their first anniversary Oct. 21.

While the deployment took some of the magic of the celebrations away, the couples are just thankful that they were together to celebrate in whatever way they are able.

During their daily routines, the soldiers got the opportunity to see each other, which made the deployment less stressful, said Emily.

“It makes it easier and it makes me feel more motivated during the day,” she said.

Gallagher said the best part of being together during the deployment was “just being able to wake up and walk out of the tent and say ‘hey, good morning’ and see her face.”

The daily contact also reduced the stress of worrying about your spouse while you are away from home, Rochelle said.

“I know where he’s at and he knows where I’m at, so that anxiety and that scared factor that we may have being separated from one of us being here and one of us being home is not there,” she said.

Although this was a great comfort for the couples, it is also posed a challenge as other soldiers may have perceived favoritism or resentment that they were here without their spouses, Emily said.

However, they said they just kept things on a professional basis at work and tried to not let emotions play a role in their activities.

Because they are married, some soldiers tended to perceive them differently, Rochelle said.

“It’s almost like sometimes, being married, you’ve got to almost over exaggerate that you’re on a professional level,” Rochelle said. “Here, you gotta put a lot of your feelings aside and you just work.”

Another major challenge the married soldiers faced was trying to keep their Fort Huachuca, Ariz. home life together until they returned.

If there is one person back at home, then they can keep the bills. Emily said they had to work with the cable and phone companies and take the animals somewhere,” Emily said.

“It was a lot harder than I thought,” she said. “Automatic payments and the Internet really have saved us,” Rochelle said.

For the families back home, both couples said that everyone felt a lot more at ease when they knew they were going to be together.

“Having us here together makes them feel more comfortable,” Emily said.

“Before we were leaving, they were saying ‘you should take care of her’ and ‘make sure you take care of him.’ It’s kind of nice for them to know we’ve got somebody out here,” Gallagher said.

Your answers to frequently asked family readiness questions

Should I go back to my hometown or back to live with my parents while my soldier spouse is deployed?

Whether to move from the installation to another area is up to the family, however, there are some things to think about before making the decision. Although being near extended family is a great comfort, some spouses who have moved have later reported that they faced some challenges that they had not anticipated — such as social isolation, lack of understanding from the civilian population and readjustment to living near mom and dad again.

Many spouses found it easier to stay in touch with what was happening to the deployed spouse if they stayed on the installation and found mutual support with spouses who were in a similar situation. There may also be financial burden that may occur if a family moves during a deployment. The important thing is to take

the time to think through all the possible problems as well as the potential benefits and talk about it as a family.

How do I know if what the Family Readiness Group phone tree caller is telling me is the right information?

When official information from the commander is relayed through the FRG phone tree it is read line for line by the key caller. Nothing is added or changed, so you know you are getting accurate information. It is important to know that casualty notification will never be handled through the FRG phone tree. The notification is done in person by the commander and chaplain. The commander will, however, enlist the support of the FRG to help the family through this time with emotional support and help with everyday needs that may arise.

Community Updates

CPAC Health Fair canceled

The Fort Huachuca Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will not host a Health Fair due to lack of interest by the vendors.

CPAC would like to request that points of contact from each organization get in contact with the office as soon as possible to pick up information packages from insurance carriers who are Federal Employees Health Benefit providers.

POCs may contact us by telephone or by e-mail to make appointment to pick up their packages. Due to shortage of information packages, unfortunately the office cannot provide interested parties individual brochures, employees must review the packages provided to their organization's POC or Admin Personnel or stop by our office to review packages. This should be done by appointment.

To obtain more health benefit information, all employees are welcome to log on to the following website www.opm.gov.

Note that the new Open Season to enroll or change insurance benefit will take place now through Dec. 10. All changes and enrollments must be completed at the Army Benefit Center website www.abc.army.mil. CPAC is unable to accept change or enrollment forms.

POCs and Admin Personnel should contact Eva Dixon at 533-5735, or e-mail eva.dixon@hua.army.mil; and Kathy Johnson at 533-5273, or e-mail johnsonks.hua.army.mil.

Parish coordinator needed

The Installation Staff Chaplain's office announces the availability of a non-personal service contract position. A volunteer parish coordinator for all services performed at all chapels is needed. The contract period is Dec. 15, 2001 through Sept. 30, 2002. Contract award and execution is subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

For information on this appropriated fund contract, call Chap. (Maj.) Ira Houck, chaplain resources manager, at 533-4753. Applicants must have two photograph, valid forms of identification to enter the fort during force protection enforcement. This advertisement of availability is valid from the period of Nov. 8 to Dec. 8. The offer for this contract will close on Dec. 8.

FCC applications accepted

Fort Huachuca Family Child Care is now accepting new provider applications. FCC Providers are adult family members that offer childcare in their quarters. All FCC Providers must be certified by Child and Youth Services. FCC will offer training Jan. 7-18, 2002 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. The training is free of charge. Interested family members should contact the program director at 533-2494 or 533-2498.

Adopt a greyhound

The Greyhound Adoption League of Sierra Vista will host a Greyhound Adoption Day on

Saturday for Sierra Vista and the surrounding area. The adoption day will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bookman's Bookstore, 100 West Fry Blvd.

The program is also in need of temporary homes for these beautiful dogs. Watch for the Reinbounds at the Sierra Vista Christmas Parade on Dec. 1. For more information, call Dave Breen at 378-1763.

Range closures

Saturday	T1, T1A, T2
Sunday	No Closures
Monday	AF, AG, AM, AW
Tuesday	AF, AG, AH, AK, AM, AN, AR, AU, AW, AY, T1, T1A, and T2
Wednesday	AF, AG, AU, AW, AY, T1 T1A, T2
Nov. 29	AF, AG, AU, AW, AY, T1, T1A, T2
Nov. 30	AF, AG, AU, AW, T1, T1A, and T2
Dec. 1	AG, T1, T1A, T2
Dec. 2	AG

For questions regarding the closure of ranges please call Range Control at 533-7095.

OSJA closed

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate will be closed 8-10 a.m. on Tuesday to enable all assigned personnel to attend mandatory training. Legal Assistance will resume operations at 1 p.m. Claims will remain closed for the day.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Rick Ottinger at 533-2095.

DOIM classes scheduled

The Directorate of Information Management offers several computer classes for the month of November, including: Access on Nov. 28, Access Intermediate on Nov. 29 and Access Advanced on Nov. 30.

All classes start promptly at 9 a.m., and class size is limited to 14 students. It is mandatory to sign up for a class prior to attending. It is beneficial to sign up as early as possible, as classes fill up quickly.

The classroom is located in De Rosy Cabell Hall on Christy Avenue, Building 22324. For more information or to register for a class, call Pfc. Megan Thacher at 533-2868.

Blood drive set

An American Red Cross Blood Drive is set for 2-8 p.m., Nov. 29 at Eifler Gym.

Drink extra water starting the day before the drive and eat a small low-fat meal or snack two to four hours before donating. You may also donate at the Red Cross Center near Donovan Dodge on Mondays and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 458-4858

Fort retirement ceremony

November's Installation Retirement Cer-

emony will be at 3 p.m., Nov. 30 at Chaffee Parade Field.

Troops to Teachers needed

Military veterans have established a solid reputation as excellent teachers and exemplary role models for today's students.

If you're interested in becoming a teacher and need information about certification and finding a teaching position, contact the Arizona Troops to Teachers office at 1-800-830-2134.

Combat Lifesaver courses set

There have been program changes made to the Combat Lifesaver Course on Fort Huachuca. FH Regulation 40-2 covers training of Combat Lifesavers and tasks authorized to be performed on the installation. The publication can be found on the Fort Huachuca Homepage at <http://huachuca-www.army.mil>.

The schedule for courses for fiscal year 2002 is as follows:

Combat Lifesaver Correspondence Course (for new personnel): Dec. 3-5, 2001; March 4-6, 2002; June 3-5, 2002; and Sept. 9-11, 2002.

Combat Lifesaver Recertification Course (for expired personnel): Dec. 6-7, 2001; March 7-8, 2002; June 6-7, 2002; and Sept. 12-13, 2002.

Combat Lifesaver Refresher Course (for current personnel): Dec. 7, 2001; March 8, 2002; June 7, 2002; and Sept. 13, 2002.

Requests for slots with all documentation required in FH Reg. 40-2 should be sent through battalion and/or brigade S-3 channels to the post G-3 schools NCO. Questions on course content can be directed to Staff Sgt. Jose Lupian or Staff Sgt. Daniel Traver at Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center at 533-4758/3727.

ASC G8 closed

The U.S. Army Signal Command Assistant Chief of Staff office, G8, will close at 11 a.m., Dec. 6 for its annual holiday party. The office will be minimally staffed during this time.

Holiday lighting celebrates hope

The annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony and Concert, under the theme "Celebrate Hope" and hosted by the Installation Staff Chaplain's Office, is scheduled for Dec. 6 at the Main Post Chapel. The tree and menorah lighting will be conducted on the front lawn at 6 p.m., and the 36th U.S. Army Band will conduct their Holiday Concert in the Chapel Sanctuary from 6:30 to 7:15p.m.

For information, call Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Willard M. Richardson at 533-9507 or Jo Moore at 533-4748.

Flea market Christmas schedule

The Sierra Vista La Salida del Sol Lions Flea Market will operate its annual Christmas schedule. The flea market will open its gates Dec. 17-Jan. 4. Weekend rates apply. The days of Dec. 17-21, Dec. 24-28 and Dec. 31-Jan. 2 will be at no charge for our clients. For more information,

call Lion Lee Hinzman at 378-1399.

Tax Center opens Jan. 7

The Judge Advocate General office will begin manning and operating the Fort Huachuca Tax Center from Jan. 7, 2002 through April 15, 2002. The hours of operation will be Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and will be located at the rear entrance of Building 21115, the Public Affairs Office. The services provided by the Tax Center will be available to all personnel with valid military ID cards.

MICA seeks volunteers

The Military Intelligence Corps Association gift shop at the MI Museum on Fort Huachuca is in desperate need of volunteers. The shop hours are 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Ride with U.S. Cavalry

Cavalry troopers with the dash, discipline and daring to preserve and promote the traditions of the B Troop 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment are needed. Membership is voluntary and open to male permanent party soldiers, retirees and DoD civilians. Call Maj. Robert Blanchette at 538-0822 or e-mail blanchetterobert@otc.army.mil. Women may volunteer for the Ladies Auxiliary. Ground School meets at 5 p.m. every Thursday at the Private Stables of Buffalo Corral. For information, visit <http://huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/BTROOP/BTROOP.HTM>.

Commanders Access Channel

Did you know the Fort Huachuca Commander's Access Channel 97 is on Cox cable channel 97 on your television, whether you live on post or in Sierra Vista?

The CAC is a great way for you to inform the Fort Huachuca and Sierra Vista community about what's happening in your organization. It's updated daily with upcoming events and activities that may be of interest to you.

The Public Affairs Office also airs videotapes provided by Soldiers Radio and Television on the CAC as a way of keeping our viewers informed about current events in the Army.

To air an announcement or for more information, call Pat Dillingham at 533-1850.

Foster families needed

Devereux Arizona is a private, non-profit organization funded by the Arizona Department of Economic Security and donations. It is seeking qualified, loving families to become foster parents for children. There is a need for respite providers (short-term foster care overnights, week-ends or holidays), family based shelter providers (foster care-overnights up to three months, sometimes longer) and therapeutic providers (long term foster care three months or longer for children with more severe emotional or physical needs or a longer history of abuse or neglect). For more information, call 458-2761. Free local training and 24-hour crisis support is provided.

Commissaries ring up 30.4 percent savings

By Bonnie Powell

DeCA

FORT LEE, Va. — The Defense Commissary Agency is hitting the 10-year, mark as an agency this fall. "But we're much happier to be hitting 30," says DeCA Director Air Force major General Robert J. Courter Jr.

Hitting 30?

"For the last two years we've made tremendous strides toward several major goals, such as cutting costs and increasing service," says Courter. "But one goal has risen above all others — achieving 30 percent savings for our customers. I'm very pleased to announce that we've hit, and surpassed, the 30 percent mark for the first time in DeCA's history."

"We've really focused on our strategies and objectives, changed the way we do business, and worked even harder to achieve major savings for customers," say Bob Vitakacs, chief of DeCA's grocery buying division, the Marketing Business Unit. Buyers at the MBU ne-

gotiate the lowest possible prices for products sold in commissaries.

"Tougher negotiations with industry have made a difference," says Vitakacs. "And we've obtained tools and technology, such as scanner data, to help us make good decisions."

Data is obtained every time a product is passed over the scanner at the register. The data from commissaries and other retail grocers helps buyers know which products are most popular and which offer the best savings to customers.

"More important than technology is simply listening to our customers and taking action," says Courter. "Listening to our customers directly resulted in initiatives that increased savings. The 'Best Value Item' program is a good example.

"Shoppers have quickly come to know that when they see the yellow signs on popular products such as baby food, detergents and paper goods, they are getting the lowest prices avail-

able anywhere. Period!" The latest figures on percent of savings are a result of the most recent pricing survey of grocery, meat and produce items in commissaries compared to retail grocery stores, supermarkets and super centers.

"Our exact percentage of savings is 30.4 percent, but I'm happy to say that our savings in produce and meat are well above that mark," says Courter. "Shoppers have noticed that we've made improvements in produce and that we are keeping the shelves stocked all day. Satisfied customers will shop more frequently and make the commissary their 'everyday' store instead of just their 'payday' store."

"Achieving savings of 30.4 percent is a major accomplishment for DeCA," says Courter. "The commissary benefit always ranks at the top of military non-pay benefits, and we have a mission to make sure it stays that way by offering unsurpassed savings, service, and efficiency to our military families."

Whirlpool recalls microwave-hood combo

CPSC release

The Whirlpool Corporation, in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, is recalling its Microwave-Hood combination, model numbers MH-7140 and GH-7145.

These units are microwave oven and exhaust fan hood combinations that are installed above ranges.

Whirlpool has received seven reports of fires involving these microwave-hood combinations. These incidents have resulted in extensive property damage.

No injuries have been reported.

Microwave ovens with a serial number beginning with letters "XC" are being recalled. To find the serial number, open the door and look on the inside door panel.

If your microwave oven serial number starts with "XC", then immediately stop using your oven and unplug it. If you cannot unplug the oven, then use the child lock out feature.

Customers are asked to contact Whirlpool Corporation for a free repair at (800) 785-8897 anytime or visit the Whirlpool website at www.repair.whirlpool.com. Please keep the model and serial numbers of the unit available when you call or visit the web site.

If you have difficulty resolving this problem, please contact Manoj Parikh at 214-312-3420 (voice), 214-312-6166 (fax), or e-mail: Parikh@aafes.com for further assistance.

Got news?

Call The Scout at 533-1987.

Holiday season is just around the corner; purchase online

With the holiday gift-giving season fast approaching, many servicemembers will be purchasing gifts online to save time. Military.com members can enjoy discounted pricing on many of the products available in the Military.com Marketplace, including Palm

Pilots, customized military clothing, gear and surplus, military art, and more. You can find the Marketplace at www.military.com/Page/0,12170,16-00-0,00.htm?ESRC=mr.nl

Chalk Talk



WWES photo

Students in Richard Gere’s third grade at Johnston Elementary School form the “Water Web of Life.” The “Water Web” game is the students’ sixth class in a series of water conservation classes presented by Fort Huachuca’s Water Wise and Energy Smart Program. Water Wise classes teach students about the water cycle, water pollution, water-based habitats, and water history to demonstrate the importance of water in our lives and encourage water conservation. To schedule a class, call Ginger Maxey at 538-SAVE (7283).

Johnston students improve basic skills

Johnston School release

Jane Boss’ first-grade class is on a world tour. With their reading passports in hand, they have set off on an adventure that will take them to all seven continents through books, food and art activities.

The students are reading folk tales from around the world as well as reading non-fiction books for group research projects on all the continents. The highlight of the unit will be a multi-cultural feast for Thanksgiving.

Winners of the third-grade Cowboy Poetry contest were Nicki Creager, of Jim Wolfe’s class, with 1st place; and Anthony Williamson, of Frank Bell’s class, with 2nd place.

Results from the Area Cowboy Poetry Contest for Cochise County will be announced at a later date.

Going to the Rodeo

By Nicki Creager

Going to the rodeo
It’s gonna be a blast
Even if I end up
Coming in last.
Nothing to fear
Except for the old steer.
Maybe ridings not my thing
Even though it’s fun
But I wouldn’t think
About bringing a big gun.

On the Small Ranch

By Anthony Williamson

I go to the
Ranch to pull
The mean and
Fierce black bull.

On a ranch
I have to practice
Wrangling with
A tall fat cactus.

Commissary scholarship program open for business; apply now

By Bonnie Powell
DeCA

FORT LEE, Va. — Don’t be like those holiday shoppers who wait until the last minute. Applications and fact sheets for the 2002 Scholarships for Military Children program are available at your local commissary and at www.commissaries.com.

The deadline for filing completed applications for the \$1,500 scholarships is Feb. 5, 2002, so try and get yours in early.

“The response from military families to the 2001 program was fantastic,” said Defense Commissary Agency Director, Air Force Major General Robert J. Courter Jr. “Over 5,000 students applied for the scholarships, and through the generosity of our industry partners nearly 400 scholarships were awarded. We anticipate receiving double the applications and making even more scholarship awards in 2002.”

The \$1,500 scholarships are funded through industry donations and the program is administered by the Fisher House Foundation through a professional scholarship evaluation company.

Fisher House is known for building and donating fully furnished comfort homes near military medical facilities where families of patients receiving medical care can stay at a reasonable cost.

Sons and daughters of U.S. military ID card holders, to include active duty, retirees, and Guard and reserves, may apply for the scholarships.

Eligibility of applicants, including survivors of deceased members, will be determined using the DoD ID Card Directive. Applicants may be college-bound high school seniors, or students already enrolled in a four-year undergraduate program.

Students must have at least a 3.0 grade point average and write an essay that describes how his or her activities have enriched the community.

“We had great feedback on the program last year,” said Scholarship Program Manager Edna Hoogewind, “and made two major changes for 2002 as a result.”

A military ID may still have to be shown at the commissary for entry due to heightened security, but the ID I no longer needed as proof of eligibility when the application is turned in at the commissary.

Applicants will be checked through the Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System prior to the awarding of scholarships, so sponsors should ensure that their children are enrolled in DEERS prior to applying.

In addition, students who don’t live close to a commissary will be able to mail their applications to

the nearest store location.

Good things do not always come to those who wait, cautions Hoogewind.

“The majority of students wait to turn in their applications at the last minute, and if there is something missing, it might be too late to fix it before the deadline,” she said.

“Completed applications and attachments are due at your nearest commissary be close of business Tuesday, February 5, 2002.

“We advise hand delivery to the nearest commissary or the commissary where you shop regularly, but if you do mail it in, you might want to send it by some form of delivery that requires a return signature,” Hoogewind said.

“In addition, if the applicant includes a self-addressed, stamped postcard with the forms, scholarship managers will acknowledge receipt of the application.”

A permanent link with details on the Scholarships for Military Children program has been added to www.commissaries.com at the “What’s New” link.

The scholarship application and Frequently Asked Questions can be accessed and downloaded from the website.

‘The majority of students wait to turn in their applications at the last minute, and if there is something missing, it might be too late to fix it before the deadline. Completed applications and attachments are due at your nearest commissary be close of business Feb. 5, 2002.

Edna Hoogewind